Closure of Textile Mills

89. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Textile Mills that have been closed down during the last two months in the country;

(b) what is the number of workers rendered jobless; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to reopen these Mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) During December 1987 and January 1988, 9 cotton|man-made textile mills with 7454 workers on roll closed down.

(c) Government had designated a Nodal Agency to evolve and manage rehabilitation packages for those sick|closed textile mills which are found by it to be potentially viable. Non-viable mills may have to face permanent closure as laid down in the June, 1985 Textile policy.

Infiltration into Meghalaya from Across the Border

90. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to erect fencing to check infiltration from across the border into Meghalaya; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Survey work for erection of barbed wire fencing has been taken up alongwith the survey for construction of border road.

Import of Dry Fruits

91. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the existing import policy for issuing import licences of the dry fruit importers on the basis of their past imports almost 80 per cent of dry fruits imports have been monopolised by only 10 importers and the rest 20 per cent of imports are shared by nearly 10,000 importers or dry fruits in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor stating the names of the 10 dry fruits importers monopolising the trade and what percentage of the total value of imports in a year is shared by each of them;

(c) whether Government have considered the desirability of bringing a change in the existing policy to issue import licences on the basis of export performance to break the monopoly in dry fruits trade which will also bring down the prices in the local market and if so, what steps are contemplated by Government in this regard; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative whether Government would consider the suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b). No, Sir. As many as 7872, 10584 and 5934 licences for import of dry fruits (excluding cashewnuts and dates) were issued during 1985-86 1986-87 and 1987-88 (upto September, 1987) respectively.

(c) and (d) The forthcoming Import and Export Policy to be effective from 1st April, 1988 is under formulation and no details can be given at this stage.

Review of Rural Sector Lending by the Nationalised Banks

92. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI SHARAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently reviewed the work relating to the rural sec-

tor lending by the nationalised banks so as to improve the effectiveness of the credit system;

(b) if so, what are the areas|aspects of the bank's rural lending examined by Government and what are the shortcomings; if any, in the effectiveness of the existing policy in the growth of the agricultural and other sectors and rural economy; and

(c) what modifications are contemplated by Government in the policy framework for rural lending to obtain optimal benefits out of banks' involvementin the rural economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had asked the senior executives of the public sector banks to carry out a study of rural lending in some branches of their banks to make qualitative assessment of the credit delivery system in relation to objectives of rural lending, the strengths and weaknesses of the organisational set up; quality of field work done; coordinations with State authorities and other agencies involved in rural development; etc. Accordingly, field studies were conducted by public sector banks and the study reports were sent by them to RBI. Some of the findings of the study were as under:

(i) The emphasis in rural lending has been on the achievement of quantitative targets. It is also necessary to evaluate the ultimate increase in agricultural production, productivity and income levels as a result of increased flow of credit.

(ii) Wherever, backward and forward linkages and other infastructural support linkages and othe infrastructural support were weak and inadequate bank credit could not produce the desired results.

(iii) The target oriented approach to rural lending under Government sponsored schemes instead of project approach or area intensive approach has resulted in the dillution of the quality of lending.

(iv) There is a deterioration in the recovery climate in general.

(v) The support from State Governments in formulating credit plans was not adequate. Further in the implementation of the credit plans some deficiencies have developed on account of multiplicity of agencies.

(vi) The implementation of anti-poverty programmes can be made more effective by giving greater rsponsibility to banks. The selection of beneficiaries under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and under the scheme for providing Self-Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) be linked from District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) and the District Industries Centre (DIC) respectively and left to a committee of bankers at block level.

(vii) Each rural branch should be accountable for meeting credit requirements of the command area allotted to it.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has further reported that it has constituted a Committee to examine the important suggestions made in the Seminar and to make suitable recommendations regarding the operational aspect of their implementation.

Hundred Rupee Coin

93. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in 'the Hindustan Times' dated the 6th January, 1988 regardng the breaking up of a hundred rupee coin into pieces when inadvertantly dropped at a nationalised bank;

(b) whether Government have made any inquiry into the production and circulation of poor quality of coins of such a high denomination; and